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THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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VARIED CONDITIONS THIS FALL

The dark spots in the picture this fall are spring wheat and cotton, the first being a case of poor yield while, by contrast, the latter is the largest crop ever grown. The apple industry may also be noted as sharply depressed by low prices. Except for some depression in the territory of those crops, however, the season winds up with about average crop yields and a probability of gross financial returns not far from last year's figures. The full effect of frosts in late September has since shown up in the damage to fruit, beans, potatoes, and other tender crops in the Northwest. No widespread damage to corn was apparent, however, save in the extreme North. The feed crops are fairly ample and well distributed. That fact has especial significance in areas like the southeastern States where feed was exceedingly short last year.

The fall in cotton prices now fills the headlines. Predictions of the same last spring were given scant notice. For four years the growers of cotton have been doing just what other producers do when business is profitable - increasing production. In the last four years the South has turned out approximately 50 million bales of cotton. During 40 consecutive months beginning July, 1922, the average farm price of cotton never went below 20 cents a pound and much of that time it exceeded 25 cents. Four good cotton crops sold well enough so that growers increased their acreage from 30 million in 1921 to 47 million acres this year. The South is not without resources for meeting the present situation and rarely have the farm and business leaders of any large region met an emergency in so united and comprehensive a fashion. Cotton is good property. The consuming world can and will use a lot of it this year.

Up in the spring wheat country there is a strip of territory extending from central North Dakota through South Dakota to central Nebraska where drought and bad weather cut the crops and for which a lean winter looms ahead. South Dakota showed the lowest general crop condition in the country last month, only 55 per cent of average. Other local areas of flood, drought or frost damage claim some attention but they are less extensive.

Hog cholera is showing up with rather serious losses in some counties of Illinois and Iowa. Nevertheless, general underlying conditions in the Corn Belt are better than last year. Corn prices are slightly higher but still low enough to encourage feeders. Hog prices stay relatively high and reports indicate a materially larger crop of pigs in prospect this fall. The small 1925 crop of hogs, now in pack, cost the packers nearly \$1,200,000,000. It brought producers more money than in any year excepting the wartime inflation years and measured in terms of corn prices during the marketing season was probably the most profitable ever marketed.

KEY REGIONS AT A GLANCE

THE EAST - Had a month of bad weather, rain most of the time, snow in New England, frosts and cold everywhere. Many reports of potatoes rotting, of beans and buckwheat spoiled, late wheat seeding abandoned, etc. Apple regions greatly discouraged over low prices. Whole cash prospect none too good but dairy situation continues favorable with roughage feeds ample and grain feeds slightly lower priced than last year.

THE SOUTH - A gloomy picture as compared with last three years. With growing certainty of huge cotton crop and drastic price decline whole region is depressed. Frequent reports of scarcity of help to pick cotton and of disposition to leave considerable low grade cotton in fields. Farm and business leaders making remarkable effort to finance crop and assure orderly disposition. Much talk of acreage reduction next spring.

CORN BELT - Hog cholera in forefront of attention at present. Losses said to be heaviest since 1914. Except for cholera situation, position of hog producers is a strong one: hogs relatively good price, corn cheap enough to feed profitably, more pigs in prospect. Total corn crop now thought to be about average. Freezes damaged some corn in north but helped to dry and harden up grain also. Husking in progress. General fall work progressed fairly well.

WHEAT BELT - Seeding of winter wheat completed. Wheat up and looking well in south; furnishing good pasture in Kansas and southward. Threshing practically completed in north. Some late wheat hurt by freezes in Montana. Whole harvest very poor from central Nebraska to central North Dakota. General picture of Wheat Belt is one of favorable conditions in south but discouraging in north.

RANGE COUNTRY - Livestock in good condition; moving down from the high ranges; considerable volume of shipping still in south. Grass cured well on winter ranges but complaints of drought are numerous, Eastern Colorado, Wyoming and Montana very dry, likewise areas in Utah and Nevada. Sugar beets, potatoes, and other irrigated crops mostly harvested.

PACIFIC COAST - Favored by excellent weather lately though damage to fruit from frosts last month has proven quite serious. Fruit harvest practically completed and fall truck well along. Winter truck crops doing well. Winter wheat looking well in north. Cotton and grape picking somewhat delayed by rains in San Joaquin Valley but well along elsewhere. Navel oranges putting on color in the south.

THE TREND OF CROP PRODUCTION

	1913 Production	5-Year Av. 1921-1925 Production	1925 Production	1926 Oct. 1 Forecast
	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions
Winter wheat, bu.	523	549	396	626
Spring wheat, bu.	240	253	271	213
All wheat, bu.	763	802	666	840
Corn, bu.	2,447	2,849	2,905	2,680
Oats, bu.	1,122	1,327	1,512	1,282
Flaxseed, bu.	18	17.8	22	19
Cotton, bales	14.1	11.5	16.1	17.4*
Rice, bu.	25.7	36	34	39
Potatoes white, bu.	332	396	326	351
Sweet potatoes, bu.	59	84	62	79
Tobacco, lbs.	954	1,290	1,374	1,294
Hay, all, tons	64	90	87	83
Apples, total, bu.	145	170	172	234
Apples, commercial, bbls.	---	30.1	33	38
Peaches, bu.	---	47	47	67

Total acreage in 21 cultivated crops about 2 per cent above that harvested last year.

Composite crop condition on October 1 improved over month previous and stood at 99.7 per cent of the 10-year average condition on that date.

AVERAGE PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS

October 15, 1926.

Actual prices received by producers at local markets as reported to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of this Bureau. Average of reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

	5-Yr. Av.	October	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
	Aug. 1909- July, 1914	Average 1910-1914			
Cotton, per lb.	¢ 12.4	12.1	21.5	16.8	11.7
Corn, per bu.	¢ 64.2	64.8	83.0	76.2	74.5
Wheat, per bu.	¢ 88.4	88.1	136.4	117.7	121.4
Hay, per ton	\$ 11.87	11.49	12.47	12.88	13.08
Potatoes, per bu.	¢ 69.7	65.0	125.6	130.6	126.4
Oats, per bu.	¢ 39.9	38.4	37.2	35.6	39.0
Beef cattle, per 100 lbs.	\$ 5.22	5.09	6.29	6.48	6.43
Hogs, per 100 lbs.	\$ 7.23	7.37	11.16	12.07	12.06
Eggs, per dozen	¢ 21.5	23.7	37.7	31.5	36.8
Butter, per lb.	¢ 25.5	26.1	44.2	40.9	41.8
Butterfat, per lb.	¢ -----	-----	47.1	40.5	42.4
Wool, per lb.	¢ 17.7	16.9	37.2	32.6	31.6
Veal calves, per 100 lbs.	\$ 6.75	6.80	9.52	10.06	10.29
Lambs, per 100 lbs.	\$ 5.91	5.35	12.04	11.32	11.31
Horses	\$142.00	140.00	76.00	78.00	77.00

The downward swing in the market price of cotton has been reflected by a decline of 5 cents per pound from 16.8 to 11.7 cents in the farm price of cotton from September 15 to October 15. This brings the farm price of cotton below the 5-year pre-war average of 12.1 cents. Cotton is now in about the same relative position when compared with pre-war prices as corn, oats and barley during the past year and apples this fall.

The farm price of oats and barley advanced in face of a further decline in corn prices; wheat and rye showed small price gains. The sharp rise in the market price of hogs between September and October 15 was not accompanied by a similar advance in the farm price as is usually the case. It is possible that cholera losses are forcing local buyers to discount the market price more than is usually necessary.

While butter prices advanced slightly, they continue at a lower level than a year ago. The farm price of eggs advanced more sharply than market prices from September 15 to October 15. While egg prices were higher than a year ago in September they dropped below in October.

PRICE INDEXES FOR SEPTEMBER, 1926.

Farm products figures from this Bureau; commodity groups from Bureau of Labor Statistics, (latter shown to nearest whole number). Shows year ago and latest available month:

Farm Products

(Prices at the farm; Aug. 1909 - July, 1914 = 100) .

	<u>Sept.</u> <u>1925</u>	<u>Aug.</u> <u>1926</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>1926</u>	<u>Month</u> <u>Trend</u>
Cotton	181	130	135	Higher
Corn	154	124	119	Lower
Wheat	163	142	133	Lower
Hay	105	110	109	Lower
Potatoes	174	202	187	Lower
Beef cattle	121	121	125	Higher
Hogs	159	161	167	Higher
Eggs	145	123	147	Higher
Butter	161	153	160	Higher
Wool	212	179	183	Higher

Commodity Groups

(Wholesale Prices; 1910 -1914 = 100) 1/

	<u>Sept.</u> <u>1925</u>	<u>Aug.</u> <u>1926</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>1926</u>	<u>Month</u> <u>Trend</u>
Farm products	160	138	141	Higher
Food, etc.	159	150	151	Higher
Cloths & clothing	193	178	179	Higher
Fuel & lighting	196	208	211	Higher
Metal and met. products	136	136	136	Unchanged
Building materials	179	177	178	Higher
Chemicals, etc.	134	129	129	Unchanged
House-furnishing goods	173	166	166	Unchanged
ALL COMMODITIES	163	152	153	Higher

1/ Bureau of Labor Statistics index numbers converted to 1910-1914 base.

RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER

(At September, 1926, Farm Prices)

Aug. 1909 - July, 1914 = 100

In terms of:	Of a Unit of:				
	Cotton	Corn	Wheat	Hay	Potatoes
All commodities	89	78	87	71	122
Cloths, etc.	76	66	75	61	105
Fuel, etc.	64	56	63	51	89
Metals, etc.	100	87	98	80	138
Bldg. materials	76	67	75	61	106
House-furnishing goods	82	72	80	65	113

	Beef cattle	Hogs	Eggs	Butter	Wool
All commodities	81	109	96	105	120
Cloths, etc.	70	93	82	90	103
Fuel, etc.	59	79	69	76	87
Metals, etc.	92	122	108	118	135
Bldg. materials	70	94	83	90	103
House-furnishing goods	75	100	88	97	110

The unit purchasing power of the important crops declined in September. (Cotton did show some increase at mid-month but it was immediately followed by drastic decline.)

The purchasing power of all important livestock products, on the other hand, increased during September. These two general facts are significant in the situation this fall.

The general index purchasing power of farm products, in terms of non-agricultural commodities, remained at 83 the same as in the previous month, the five pre-war years being considered as 100

REVISION: A revision of price index for farm products during August places the purchasing power index at 83 for that month instead of 82 as heretofore announced.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS
RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

	1925	1926	1926	Month's
	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	Trend
<u>PRODUCTION</u>				
Pig iron daily (Thou. tons)	91	103	104	Increase
Bituminous coal (Million tons)	47	46	49	Increase
Steel ingots (Thou. long tons)	3,490	4,005	3,931	Decrease
<u>CONSUMPTION</u>				
Cotton by mills (Thou. bales)	483	501	571	Increase
Unfilled orders Steel Corp. (Thou. T.)	3,717	3,542	3,594	Increase
Building contracts (Million dollars)	463	528	488	Decrease
Hogs slaughtered (Thousands)	1,645	1,710	1,673	Decrease
Cattle "	1,227	1,171	1,290	Increase
Sheep "	981	1,058	1,147	Increase
<u>MOVEMENTS</u>				
Bank clearing (N.Y.) (Billion dollars)	22	22	21	Decrease
Car loadings (Thousands)	4,298	4,418	4,552	Increase
Mail order sales (Million dollars)	35	32	38	Increase
Employees, N. Y. State Factories (Thou.)	500	489	500	Increase
Av. price 25 indus. stocks (Dollars)	163	172	172	Same
Interest rate (4-6 mo. paper, N. Y.)	4.19	4.31	4.43	Increase
Retail Food price Index (Dept. Labor)*	159	156	158	Higher
Wholesale Price Index (Dept. Labor)*	160	149	150	Higher

There is nothing outstanding to note as new in the business situation. The slump in cotton prices has been accompanied by some decline in the stock market. Many observers say, however, that cheaper cotton is the thing needed to revive the textile industry and that it will not hurt business in general.

Well informed men point to somewhat higher interest rates, slightly lessened building construction, declining foreign trade, and other rather bearish indications. At the same time, they discount the probability of any very sudden business recession. Meanwhile, industry continues active, employment general, wages high, and the cities prosperous.

Data on this page, excepting livestock slaughter and price indexes, are from the "Survey of Current Business", Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

GENERAL TREND OF WAGES AND PRICES

1910-1914 = 100

Year and Month	General Wage Level*	Farm Wages 2/	Retail Price of Food 1/	Wholesale Price of food 1/	Wholesale Price All Commodities #
1910	---	97	96	100	103
1911	---	97	95	96	95
1912	---	101	101	103	101
1913	---	104	103	99	102
1914 (June)	100	101	106	101	100
1915	101	102	104	104	103
1916	114	112	117	120	129
1917	129	140	151	166	180
1918	160	176	174	187	198
1919	185	206	192	205	210
1920	222	239	210	218	230
1921	203	150	158	143	150
1922	197	146	146	137	152
1923	214	166	151	143	156
1924	218	166	150	143	152
1925	223	168	160	156	162
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1925					
January	223	156	159	159	163
February	220	---	156	156	164
March	224	---	156	158	164
April	218	163	155	153	159
May	221	---	156	152	158
June	220	---	160	154	160
July	220	170	165	156	163
August	222	---	165	158	163
September	223	---	164	159	163
October	225	173	167	157	160
November	226	---	172	159	160
December	229	---	171	156	159
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1926					
January	229	159	169	155	159
February	225	---	166	152	158
March	229	---	165	150	154
April	227	166	167	152	154
May	226	---	166	153	154
June	228	---	165	156	155
July	227	174	162	153	153
August	227	---	161	150	152
September	231	---	163	151	153

1/ Bureau of Labor Statistics index numbers converted to 1910-1914 base.

2/ Index based on both monthly and daily wages.

* Average weekly earnings, New York State factories.

Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NEW INDEX OF GENERAL TREND OF PRICES
On Five-Year Base, August, 1909 - July, 1914 = 100

Year and Month	Index numbers of farm prices							Wholesale Prices of Non-Agri- cultural Commodi- ties 1/	Relative purchasing power of Farmer's Product 2/
	Grains	Fruits and Vegetables	Meat Ani- mals	Dairy & Poultry Products	Cotton and Cotton- seed	Unclas- sified	All Groups 30 Items		
1910	104	91	103	101	113	102	103	102	101
1911	96	106	87	95	101	103	95	96	99
1912	106	110	95	103	87	106	99	100	99
1913	92	92	108	100	97	94	100	105	95
1914	103	100	112	101	85	95	102	97	105
1915	120	83	104	99	78	95	100	101	99
1916	126	123	120	106	119	100	117	138	85
1917	217	202	173	133	187	130	176	182	97
1918	226	162	202	160	245	157	200	188	107
1919	231	189	206	182	247	162	209	199	105
1920	231	249	173	197	248	152	205	241	85
1921	112	148	108	151	101	90	116	167	69
1922	105	152	113	135	156	94	124	168	74
1923	114	136	106	147	216	109	135	171	79
1924	129	124	109	137	211	100	134	162	83
1925	156	160	139	143	177	92	147	165	89
Sept.									
1921	100	171	101	144	130	84	118	156	75
1922	97	109	112	132	160	90	119	179	66
1923	111	131	112	144	204	100	132	167	79
1924	140	113	115	133	175	100	132	158	83
1925	148	142	143	141	178	90	144	163	88
1926									
Jan.	143	214	140	153	138	87	143	165	87
Feb.	140	218	146	144	142	87	143	164	87
Mar.	133	220	147	137	133	85	140	162	87
Apr.	131	253	146	133	135	83	140	160	88
May	131	240	148	131	130	82	139	160	87
June	130	216	154	130	132	81	139	160	87
July	125	195	152	131	126	85	136	159	85
Aug.	128	166	144	130	130	89	133	160	83
Sept.	121	136	148	139	134	93	134	161	83
Oct.	123	136	148	144	94	97	130	---	---

1/ Computed by Bureau of Labor Statistics from wholesale prices of all commodities except those from United States farms. 1910-1914 = 100. 2/ The value of a unit of the farmer's product in exchange for non-agricultural products at wholesale prices, compared with pre-war values. Obtained by dividing index of all groups (30 items) by the index of the wholesale prices of non-agricultural products.

THE TREND OF MOVEMENT TO MARKET

Figures show wheat, corn, hogs, cattle, sheep receipts at primary markets; butter receipts at five markets, compiled by this bureau. All figures given to nearest thousand, that is, three ciphers omitted.

Month	WHEAT Receipts Th. bu.	CORN Receipts Th. bu.	HOGS Receipts Thousands	CATTLE Receipts Thousands	SHEEP Receipts Thousands	BUTTER Receipts Th. lbs.
1920 Total	332,314	210,332	42,121	22,197	23,538	402,755
1921 "	435,606	340,908	41,101	19,787	24,168	468,150
1922 "	413,106	378,598	44,068	23,218	22,364	526,714
1923 "	386,430	271,858	55,330	23,211	22,025	545,380
1924 "	482,007	278,719	55,414	23,695	22,201	587,477
1925 "	346,381	223,604	43,929	24,067	22,100	574,489
1920 Sept.	43,808	19,906	2,391	2,294	2,895	35,991
1921 "	51,096	35,578	2,655	1,906	2,618	41,561
1922 "	57,839	31,123	3,062	2,397	2,303	38,477
1923 "	44,196	18,355	3,607	2,295	2,659	41,625
1924 "	81,183	22,084	3,216	2,566	3,027	47,467
1925 "	57,756	12,889	2,741	2,157	2,627	45,005
1926 Jan.	19,076	28,268	4,304	1,840	1,548	39,424
" Feb.	15,923	25,718	3,372	1,551	1,486	39,507
" Mar.	15,052	20,080	3,579	1,811	1,695	46,077
" Apr.	13,458	12,589	3,135	1,711	1,502	45,501
" May	15,260	11,972	3,037	1,894	1,717	54,464
" June	18,505	23,912	3,143	1,871	1,913	75,931
" July	68,200	13,353	2,854	1,821	1,739	68,393
" Aug.	67,952	11,513	2,804	1,997	2,277	50,476
" Sept.	46,266	13,740	2,816	2,397	3,279	44,761

Movement of wheat to market fell off considerably during September. Corn movement increased but was not heavy compared with other recent Septembers.

September market movement of hogs continued above last year and cattle and sheep likewise exceeded last year. Butter receipts fell off somewhat.

THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by Division of Statistical Research of this Bureau.

Month		WHEAT 1/ including flour	TOBACCO Leaf	BACON** HAMS AND SHOULDERS	LARD	TOTAL* MEATS	COTTON [#] running bales
		1,000 Bushels	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Bales
1920	Total	311,601	467,662	821,922	612,250	1,043,500	6,111
1921	"	359,021	515,353	647,680	868,942	786,280	6,385
1922	"	235,307	430,908	631,452	766,950	733,832	6,015
1923	"	175,190	474,500	828,890	1,035,382	958,472	5,224
1924	"	241,454	546,555	637,980	944,095	729,832	6,653
1925	"	138,786	468,469	467,459	688,829	547,361	8,362
1920	September	35,182	37,261	50,369	46,326	58,181	227
1921	"	39,310	33,009	61,856	104,741	70,107	513
1922	"	32,099	33,102	51,040	61,120	60,863	365
1923	"	22,779	37,646	76,911	83,630	88,833	686
1924	"	39,537	37,245	43,117	65,810	50,092	734
1925	"	13,152	50,677	32,900	62,646	40,230	750
1926	January	5,587	46,891	46,654	76,670	53,833	735
"	February	4,742	47,147	37,187	65,356	45,292	545
"	March	7,039	36,167	34,133	64,259	40,641	512
"	April	6,452	43,388	31,410	63,160	37,947	506
"	May	12,558	27,431	30,104	58,154	35,197	412
"	June	11,210	30,762	23,861	56,482	29,959	339
"	July	19,811	29,760	22,457	45,879	28,221	356
"	August	35,774	26,263	29,090	54,273	34,762	385
"	September	31,031	38,319	26,927	61,577	33,843	789

* Includes fresh, canned and pickled beef, bacon, hams and shoulders; fresh, canned, and pickled pork; fresh mutton and lamb.

** Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.

Excludes linters.

1/ Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels grain equal 1 barrel of flour.

COLD STORAGE SITUATION

October 1 holdings (Shows nearest million, six figures omitted):

Commodity	5-Year Average	Year Ago	Month Ago	October 1, 1926
Creamery butter, lbs.	110	114	138	125
American cheese, lbs.	62	79	81	78
Case eggs, cases	7,790*	8,612*	9,573*	8,035*
Total poultry, lbs.	34	44	39	45
Total beef, lbs.	50	41	42	46
Total pork, lbs.	520	467	623	513
Lard, lbs.	78	72	151	105
Lamb & mutton, lbs.	2,964*	1,112*	1,929*	2,232*
Total meats, lbs.	631	562	725	617

Butter and cheese storage stocks declined a little during September but were above average.

Eggs showed a seasonal decline and stocks continued below last year but slightly above the average.

Beef stocks increased, contrary to the average situation and exceed last year's figure.'

Stocks of pork products declined but are now about in line with average. The amount of pork and lard in storage is considerably greater than last year and lard stocks are especially heavy.

* Thousands, or three figures omitted.

THE DAIRY SITUATION

More definite evidence of improvement in dairy sections resulting from the late summer rains is now at hand, and may be found in reports which relate to current fall production. Estimated butter production for the month of September of 112,500,000 pounds represents an increase over September, 1925, of 3.8 per cent and as compared with the August estimate, which was 4.8 per cent below last year, is some indication of the favorable change which must have occurred. Production reports from condenseries also confirm the fact that conditions were more favorable. Pending release of regular estimates, there is nothing more definite at hand as a measure of the trend since October 1 than receipts of butter and cheese at principal markets. In past years butter receipts during October have shown a fairly consistent relationship to October production, although changes in marketing methods now employed in certain important shipping sections, make some allowance for variation necessary. With this in mind, it is of interest to note that during the first 3 weeks of October market receipts dropped almost 9 per cent below those of the same period last year, and that total receipts since January 1 have almost lost the gain over last year which up until now has been carried throughout all of 1926.

Butter price changes have also been followed closely the past month, not so much on account of changes which have occurred in the domestic price level, but because of price declines in foreign markets. The official Danish quotation of October 15 was equivalent to 34.63 cents, the lowest point reached since the middle of July, at which time the New York price was 43 cents. New York now averages close to 47 cents making imports more of a possibility, although not necessarily a probability, unless later price advances abroad should be lost. Small shipments of Swedish and Siberian butter arrived during the month, but in amounts which of themselves are of no consequence. Domestic butter prices for October will average approximately 4 cents lower than last year, although at the close of the month the 2 years were closer together than since the first of September, due to the rather sharp declines which occurred late in October, 1925. Prices since July more closely parallel those of 1923 than any other recent years.

Stocks of butter in cold storage on October 1 were 125,122,000 pounds, a reduction of 13,000,000 pounds under the peak holdings of September 1, but a surplus of 11,000,000 pounds over October 1, 1925. Since October 1 there has been an active movement out of storage warehouses, and it is probable the surplus over 1925 will be substantially reduced by November 1.

Butter market developments are perhaps followed with most interest at this time, but the situation on related products is also important. Fluid milk market is generally in good shape with reports from important areas indicating that there are no burdensome surpluses. Condensed milk markets continue steady to firm, with stocks on October 1 practically the same as a year ago, trade movement apparently somewhat more active, and production lighter. Cheese stocks now approximately those of a year ago and markets are about steady at prices almost equivalent to those prevailing at this same time in 1925.

DAIRY SITUATION

(Thousand lbs., i.e., 000 omitted)

BUTTER SUMMARY

	September			JANUARY - SEPTEMBER, INCLUSIVE		
	1926	1925	% Change	1926	1925	% Change
Production (1)						
Creamery	112,528	108,325	+ 3.8	1,071,543	1,080,378	- 0.8
Farm	48,488	49,324	- 1.7	464,580	472,590	- 1.7
Total butter	161,016	157,649	+ 2.1	1,536,123	1,552,968	- 1.1
Net exports	237	49	--	209 Im.	1,728 Im.	--
In Storage (1st)	138,151	128,403	--	52,785	65,694	--
In Storage (end)	125,122	114,172	--	125,122	114,172	--
Trade Output	173,808	181,831	+1.2	1,463,995	1,506,218	- 2.8
Milk Equivalent	3,649,968	3,608,451	+1.2	30,743,895	31,630,578	- 2.8
Receipts 4 mkt	50,641	51,289	-1.3	529,017	522,669	+ 1.2

CHEESE SUMMARY

Production (2)	33,787	39,609	-14.7	341,725	355,009	- 3.8
Net imports	7,126	5,146	--	44,609	34,313	--
In Storage (1st)	98,473	95,472	--	76,649	67,558	--
In Storage (end)	95,681	97,777	--	95,681	97,777	--
Trade output	43,705	42,450	+ 3.0	367,302	359,103	+ 2.3
Milk Equivalent	437,050	424,500	+ 3.0	3,673,020	3,591,030	+ 2.3
Rec'ts Wisconsin warehouses	22,647	26,555	- 14.7	219,493	225,840	- 2.8

CONDENSED AND EVAPORATED MILK SUMMARY

Production (3)	125,033	126,552	- 1.2	1,340,650	1,422,842	- 5.8
Net exports	8,144	15,683	--	87,032	115,217	--
In Mfgrs' hands (1st)	241,547	212,903	--	156,272	123,428	--
In Mfgrs' hands (end)	207,398	207,263	--	207,398	207,263	--
Trade output	151,038	116,509	+29.6	1,202,492	1,223,790	- 1.8
Milk Equivalent	377,595	291,273	+29.6	3,006,230	3,059,475	- 1.8

TOTAL MILK EQUIVALENT - BUTTER, CHEESE AND CONDENSED MILK

Production	4,031,789	4,023,099	+ 0.2	39,027,458	39,719,523	- 1.8
Trade output	4,464,613	4,324,224	+ 3.2	37,423,145	38,281,083	- 2.3

DRY MILK

Skim milk (Stocks Oct. 1)	11,851	5,627	--	1/1/26 - 4,399	1/1/25 - 6,735	--
Dry milk (net)	11 Ex.	610 Im.	--	1,249 Im.	1,280 Im.	--

(1) Estimated from Receipts on 4 principal markets.

(2) Estimated from Receipts at Wisconsin Warehouses.

(3) Compiled from special reports to this Bureau.

T. R. Pirtle,

Division of Dairy and Poultry Products., B. A. E.

THE EGG AND POULTRY SITUATION

The egg markets at the close of October show little improvement in position from that of a month earlier. Receipts have shown heavy decreases from September as is normal for the season, and appear to be running just about as heavy as in October, 1925. Storage goods have been moving out into consuming channels at a fairly rapid rate. But while the out movement during September was greater than for the same month in 1925 and for this reason the shortage relative to the previous year in storage holdings was greater on October 1 than on September 1, there is evidence that the movement since October 1 has not equaled that of a year ago either in the 4 markets or the 26 cities. This means that unless the movement outside of the 26 cities, from which storage reports are received regularly has been considerably greater than during last October, that the difference between this year's storage holdings and those of 1925 will not be as great on November 1 as it was on October 1. This being of paramount importance in the supply side of the equation it is of no little importance in establishing the market position.

Prices of the better quality fresh eggs have followed the trend of gradual but steady advance which was noted during the previous month. The lower grades did no more than to hold their own, and refrigerator eggs showed a slight but not particularly significant recession. Fancy eggs continue firm as the supply dwindles with medium and lower qualities not so well thought of. December futures, which had sagged slightly toward the opening of the month on account of the light demand, recovered later on as conditions improved again. The price level is still slightly below that of 1925 but the margin has become very narrow.

The outstanding feature of the dressed poultry markets continues to be the heavy arrivals at the principal cities. Receipts during September were nearly 30 per cent greater than for the previous September and during October an increase of nearly 20 per cent over a year ago is being maintained. These heavy supplies have, of course, been in excess of demand and have been rapidly put into the storage warehouse. A month ago storage stocks showed a shortage compared with the previous year and now a similar comparison shows a surplus of several million pounds, so quickly has the complexion of the market changed. Prices have shown some tendency to ease off toward lower levels recently but not to the degree one might expect on account of the greatly increased receipts.

Turkeys continue to move slowly although as the holiday period approaches there is some evidence of awakening interest. Storage holdings of turkeys are quite light compared to previous years. During the past few months fairly heavy shipments have been received from South American ports.

Live poultry markets have been somewhat irregular, and prices have slipped a little since the passing of the Jewish holidays. Receipts are still running heavy, however, and it is apparent that demand is still moderately active as no accumulations have been reported.

C. E. Eckles,

Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, B. A. E.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION
(Thousands, i.e., 000 omitted)
Stocks in Storage - October 1, 1926 - U. S.

	Shell eggs (Cases)	Frozen eggs (Pounds)	Dressed Poultry (Pounds)
1926	8,035	50,754	44,671
1925	8,612	44,299	44,345
Change	- 577	+ 6,455	+ 326
Per cent	- 6.7	+ 14.6	+ 0.7
% change from 5 yr. av.	+ 3.1	+ 41.5	+ 32.0

Imports and Exports of Poultry and Eggs - Jan. 1 - Sept. 30, 1926.

	IMPORTS	1926	1925	EXPORTS	1926	1925
Shell eggs (dozens)		175	487	21,298	18,836	
Whole eggs, dried (Lbs.)		442	675			
Whole eggs, frozen "		8,020	7,084)			
Yolks, dried "		2,798	4,230)			
Yolks, frozen "		3,332	3,860)	(1) 359	(1) 206	
Egg albumen, dried "		2,460	3,190)			
Egg albumen, frozen, prepared or preserved (Lbs.)		2,612	2,346)			
Live poultry, "		822	449	438	577	
Dressed poultry "		4,617	1,397	(2) 3,184	(2) 4,889	
Poultry, prepared in any manner (Lbs.)		301	278			

(1) Includes all forms of frozen and dried eggs.

(2) Includes game.

Receipts and Apparent Trade Output at Four Markets - Eggs (Cases)

SEPTEMBER			JAN. 1 - SEPT. 30		
Receipts	Net storage Movement	App. trade Output	Receipts	Net storage Movement	App. trade output
1926 885	- 518	1,403	12,895	+ 2,239	10,656
1925 876	- 429	1,305	13,174	+ 2,806	10,368
Change + 9		+ 98	- 279		+ 288
Per cent + 1		+ 7.5	- 2.1		+ 2.8

Receipts and Apparent Trade Output at Four Markets - Dressed Poultry (Lbs.)

SEPTEMBER			JAN. 1 - SEPT. 30		
Receipts	Net storage Movement	App. trade Output	Receipts	Net storage Movement	App. trade output
1926 24,278	+ 2,910	21,368	181,255	- 45,693	226,948
1925 18,683	- 3,079	21,762	162,818	- 60,243	223,061
Change + 5,595		- 394	+ 18,437		+ 3,887
Per cent + 29.9		- 1.8	+ 11.3		+ 1.7

THE HOG SITUATION

With the end of the pork-packing and hog-marketing year of 1925-26 in October and the beginning of the new year 1926-27 on November 1 a review of the past year and a forecast of the new year is of interest.

Fewer Hogs Slaughtered This Year

The inspected slaughter of hogs for the crop year 1925-26 was 40,713,000 head (October being estimated at 2,875,000) a decrease of 5,392,000 head or 12 per cent from the 46,105,000 head slaughtered in 1924-25. In December, 1925, it was stated in the release of the December pig survey results for the Corn Belt that the two pig surveys of 1925 indicated a decrease in the inspected slaughter of hogs of between 5 and 5½ million head for the crop year 1925-26.

This decrease of 12 per cent in slaughter was largely offset by increase in the weight and yield of hogs slaughtered. The total dressed weight of hogs slaughtered for the first 10 months of the crop year 1925-26 was about 4 per cent smaller than the total for the same period in 1924-25. For the last two months of the 1925-26 year the dressed weight probably will be somewhat less than for the same months of the 1924-25 year.

Hogs Bring Producers More Money

In spite of the reduced slaughter this year, the 1925 crop of hogs brought producers as much or more money than did the crop of 1924. The 40,700,000 hogs slaughtered during the crop year of 1925-26 cost packers about \$1,197,000,000*. For the year 1924-25 the 46,100,000 head slaughtered cost \$1,186,000,000, while 52,875,000 head in 1923-24 cost only \$917,309,000. The increased cost in 1925-26 was due both to increased average weight per head and increased average cost per hundred pounds.

The 1925 crop of hogs, measured in terms of corn prices during the marketing season, was probably the most profitable ever marketed. In actual dollars it was the most valuable, excluding those of the war and post-war years from 1916 to 1919. The high corn-hog price ratio prevailing during the marketing year resulted in the expected delayed marketing of both the spring and fall crops. The unusual price discrimination against heavy hogs during the winter, however, tended to increase winter marketings above what they normally would have been.

More Pigs Probable This Fall

The June, 1926, pig survey showed a spring pig crop in the Corn Belt about the same size as that of 1925. The number of sows bred for fall farrow this year, however, was reported as nearly 40 per cent larger than the number farrowed in the fall of 1925. The continuing highly favorable corn-hog ratio points to a very considerable increase in farrowing this fall. The December 1 pig survey will show what increase, if any, there has been in the fall pig crop this year.

* September and October estimated.

If the demand for hogs this coming winter equals that of last, with a supply as indicated by the June pig survey, the price of hogs this winter should be on about the level of last winter. The winter prices of corn, based upon the prices of December and May corn futures, is indicated as about the same as last winter. Thus a very favorable corn-hog ratio may be expected to prevail during the marketing of the 1926 spring pig crop. Under normal conditions a delayed market movement, similar to last year, would be expected.

The Cholera Situation

But the Corn Belt situation this year is complicated by an outbreak of hog cholera, reported to be the most severe since 1915. Because of the small cholera losses in recent years the demand for serum has greatly declined and with it production. Thus the control of this outbreak is greatly handicapped by lack of serum. If the epidemic results in losses comparable to those from 1913 to 1915, a material reduction in hog supplies from the indications of the 1926 pig surveys will result. The losses from cholera in Iowa, alone, in 1913 were recorded as over 2,500,000 head; in 1923 as only 348,000 head.

Besides its effect in actually decreasing the number of hogs, a severe cholera outbreak usually results in an early movement of the spring pig crop with a resulting decrease in average weights. Such an effect is already in evidence. While all conditions influencing the weight of hogs, such as corn prices, corn supplies, and corn-hog ratio, would indicate a heavier weight of hogs in October this year than last, market reports show a lighter weight. Market comment as well as prices of pigs and lightweight hogs compared to a year ago indicate a very considerable premature movement of this spring's crop. If this cholera condition continues, the marketings of hogs in November and December this year may be materially higher than for the same months last year in spite of a spring crop no larger and other conditions indicating a delayed movement similar to last year.

The cholera situation, to the extent that it reduces supplies both in numbers and weight, should tend to strengthen average hog prices over the whole winter season. This may be offset, in part at least, by the effects of the very large cotton crop and low prices of cotton. The large cotton crop means a larger production of cottonseed oil, and oil prices are at a low level. This has affected and will continue to affect adversely the lard market, which at present is a weak spot in hog products trade. Apparently the packing industry is entering the new packing year with unusually large stocks of lard, storage holdings on October 1 being the second largest for the date in 11 years and nearly 50 per cent above those of October 1, 1925. The low price of cotton has reduced the purchasing power of the South materially and this will probably curtail the important southern outlet for cured pork products.

C. L. Harlan,

Livestock Statistician, B. A. E.

MOST FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRICES LOWER

Owing mainly to increased production, many leading fruits and vegetables have been selling this fall 10 to 25 per cent lower than last season. This state of market depression applied to most of the fruits, also to onions, sweet potatoes, and some less important vegetables. Exception to the low price level, part of the time, were potatoes, carrots, celery, and lettuce.

The tendency to heavy production of truck crops may continue into the coming season. A general increase in planting of vegetables seems to be a part of the southern growers' program, possibly as a rebound from the unsatisfactory cotton situation. Gains in trucking acreage are expected in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and California, and quite likely throughout the whole region shipping early in the season.

The intended increase in southeastern fall and winter lettuce would mean twice the plantings of four years ago, and Arizona enlarges last year's acreage by one-third. Fully 10 per cent more fall cabbage may be planted this season in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, also 15 per cent more celery in Florida and one-third more in California. Additional tomato land is reported along the Florida east coast and a gain of 40 to 50 per cent in Texas and California. Early string beans show general increase. California Bermuda onion acreage may be a third larger the coming season. On the other hand, earliest plantings of truck crops in south Florida were mostly destroyed by the great storm. Increased planting in Florida is large chiefly by contrast with the light production incident to the real estate boom prevailing last year.

Apples

The task of disposing of one of the greatest commercial apple crops has been lessened somewhat by damage and waste and by active early export movement.

Part of the summer and fall crop was not harvested. Serious damage by freezing was reported in Idaho, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota, and some injury in Washington and Oregon by freezing, dropping and wind storms, besides considerable worm infestation late in the season. More than half the loss recorded in the October report was chiefly the result of freezing in the Northwest which injured a great many apples for long keeping. Storm injury and the irregular

size of the fruit affected the situation in the Middle West, leading to an increase of bulk shipments at the expense of package stock. Scab and worm injury played a part in the apple situation in eastern apple regions.

Production estimate of the commercial crop was cut down 8 per cent in October, but was still about one-sixth greater than in 1925. The available stocks were being reduced gradually from various causes. A general tendency to close grading restricted the quantity of marketable fruit in all regions. Quality of most fruit appearing in the markets has been good. The estimated commercial production in the boxed apple region of the Northwest is estimated only 4 or 5 per cent greater than last year, but the eastern crop has increased by one-fourth this season. It appears that the marketing of the eastern surplus is the center of difficulty. The commercial increase over last year was $3\frac{1}{2}$ million barrels in Virginia, West Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania. The great crop of this region is hard to handle because of the limited local facilities for storage of such large quantities of fruit.

The early movement of apples into cold storage was not very active for apples in barrels and baskets, but was heavy for boxed apples. The figures reflected the late maturity and slow buying movement in the East and the early season in the Far West. Cold storage space was reported scarce in the Virginia-West Virginia producing region, but such space in western New York was not all taken early in the season, because the fall apples had been somewhat neglected, leaving more space to be occupied by the late crop.

Apple Prices and Export

Prices started comparatively low this season and declined a little further in October. Near the end of the month the range at shipping points was 25 to 75 cent per box under last season's level in the Pacific Northwest, and \$1 to \$2 per barrel lower in the East. Prices in some city markets in middle western producing sections have ranged higher in September and October than most eastern markets and closer to last season's level, the desirable local supplies being lighter in the Middle West. Average country-wide prices have been one-fourth to one-third lower this season. Competition with the large supply of pears, peaches, grapes and oranges has helped to force apple markets down. Low prices in the fall at least encouraged active consuming demand. Sometimes, prices have advanced over winter even in the heavy crop seasons; a possibility lending a tinge of hope to owners of standard, long-keeping fruit. No doubt the effect of early maturity and slight freezing impaired the long keeping qualities of fruit in some sections.

The heavy export trade in September and October has taken care of considerable boxed fruit from the Northwest and some barreled stock from the South Atlantic region together with increasing quantities of the Greening and Baldwin from Western New York. Prices in English markets reached an early average more than 50 per cent higher than the home market level, but declined under pressure of liberal supplies. This is about the time of year when foreign markets often touch lowest prices. Depressed condition of business in the United Kingdom tends to limit the demand, notwithstanding the very light yield in English orchards. Conditions are fair to good in those countries of Continental Europe which usually take large quantities of American apples. In a season of heavy surplus production in the United States, there is danger of oversupply in foreign markets right along. Otherwise the outlook is favorable for active demand in various apple importing countries, with no more than the usual competition from Canada and from other apple-shipping regions.

Potatoes

The potato situation has not changed much during the month. No great damage happened to the crop, which was still estimated 7 to 8 per cent greater than in 1925. This light crop, 11 to 12 per cent below average, would not mean scarcity. Shipments even last year with the crop 18 per cent under the 5-year average, were within 9 per cent of average number of cars, since much rather poor stock was included. The cleanup may be nearly as complete as it was then. No serious lack of potatoes should occur in the nation's bill of fare which is helped out by moderate increases in production of sweet potatoes, cabbage and onions, with a prospect of southern winter vegetables in full supply.

Shipments of the main crop potatoes started late but became heavy in October, rapidly overtaking the weekly totals of last season. Canadian imports started more actively this season, but judging by the slight increase in the estimated Canadian production, the shipments likely to come from that source would not affect the general situation much.

Prices of potatoes have lagged a little behind those of last season recently. A general average in late October of, say, \$2.25 per 100 pounds at country shipping points and \$2.75 in city markets compares with averages about \$1 higher a year ago and rising fast at that time.

Cabbage and Onions

The cabbage crop was larger this year but prices so far have ranged only a little below those of last season. The shipping movement is presumably about half completed. A year ago the cabbage markets were following the rapidly rising trend of potatoes but this year the price movement has been slow and irregular. Considerable cabbage has been going to the kraut factories, including some stock of the late keeping varieties. A report including estimates of cabbage intended for storage is scheduled to appear the last of November.

Onions rather more than cabbage show some tendency to follow the potato market, having advanced about 25 cents per 100 pounds in October, but they were still selling at least 50 cents under the prices a year ago. Holders of good stock in storage base their hopes of a well sustained market partly on the prospect of less foreign competition and partly on the result of weather and insect damage in the West.

Other Products

The effect of the Florida tornado is shown in the cut of 2 million boxes in production of citrus fruits, leaving the October estimate at 9 million boxes of oranges and 6 million of grapefruit. The supply of oranges should be ample because of large production in California, conditions of the California crop having gained slightly in September. The improvement was mainly in the Valencia crop which for the State as a whole is a little better than the navel crop.

The California grape movement was limited not only by low prices at shipping points but by the increased manufacture of raisins and dried juice grapes. Present indications are said to favor a clean-up of the crop of juice grapes. Movement of the large eastern crop is late but active. Prices of grapes are 25 to 50 per cent lower this season.

Sweet potatoes, being a fairly large crop in the principal shipping sections, have failed to benefit much from the good market for white potatoes. Carlot movement has been rather moderate but prices hardly more than half the level of a year ago.

The feature of the bean situation is the estimated cut of nearly 2 million bags in Michigan and Colorado production as compared with last season.

THE WHEAT SITUATION (as of October 25th)

Reports to date indicate that the world's supply of wheat for the year is likely to be about the same as last year but demand for it somewhat greater than last year. The Northern Hemisphere crop outside of Russia and China as reported to date is approximately 2,944 million bushels compared with 2,939 million bushels in the same countries last year. Reports from our representatives in Europe indicate that the outturn of European crops is likely to be less than estimated. Although Southern Hemisphere crops will soon be ready for harvest, it is too early to make a definite prediction of the probable outturn of the crops. Areas have been increased slightly. It is estimated that the area to be harvested in Argentina is 19,275,000 acres compared with 19,197,000 acres last year and in Australia 11,000,000 acres compared with 10,289,000 acres last year. Conditions to date have been generally favorable to the development of the crops, but the outturn of the crops is still quite uncertain. Yields equal to the average of the past 5 years would produce in these 2 countries 370 million bushels as compared with 298 million bushels produced last year. This increase in production added to the Northern Hemisphere estimates reported to date would increase the total world supply only about 2 per cent over last year. Such an increase if realized in the Southern Hemisphere might be offset by reductions in estimates in Europe, smaller exports from Russia, and larger imports into China on account of the partial failure of the wheat crop in southern Manchuria.

Conditions favorable to marketing this year's crop are the very low stocks of old wheat at the beginning of the year, a considerable reduction in the rye and potato crops of Europe, and reduction in the quality of the grain in several European countries. In many countries, the stocks of old wheat at the beginning of the new year had been reduced to a minimum. These countries must, therefore, meet their usual requirements out of this year's crop, and in some cases it may be considered desirable to have in hand larger stocks at the end of the year. In Europe where rye is an important factor in the bread supply that crop is 15 per cent short of last year. Estimates of the producing countries in the Northern Hemisphere, outside of Russia, indicate a crop 142 million bushels less than last year. The crop of rye is so short in many European countries that prices have risen to the point where more wheat or wheat flour is likely to be consumed in preference to rye.

Earlier in the year France and Italy took measures to restrict importations of wheat. It remains to be seen how effective these measures may be. It is of interest to note, however, that in the case of Italy restrictions have not been applied to macaroni or durum wheat. This is important from the point of view of the United States, as Italy is our most important foreign market for durum wheat. It is also of interest to note reports from France that a part of the duty imposed for protection against imports is to be rebated to importers in order to prevent a rise in the price of bread. This, of course, reduces the protection of the French tariff. Although European countries probably will not import enough wheat to make up entirely for reduction in wheat and rye crops, they will undoubtedly import considerably more wheat than last year.

Foreign market conditions have been quite favorable to the marketing of the exportable surplus wheat of the United States. Exports of wheat including flour to October 23 amounted to about 103 million bushels or about half of our apparent exportable surplus. The conditions that have been favorable to this movement are low stocks in many European countries, comparatively light shipments from Argentina and Australia in the past few months and a slow movement of the Canadian crop. From August 1 to October 15 the receipts at country elevators in Canada amounted to 84 million bushels as compared with 114 million bushels for the same period last year and shipments from Canadian ports in the same period were about 25 per cent less than last year. Exports from Russia are also behind last year. Exports through the Bosphorus from October 1 to 15 amounted to only about 5 million bushels compared with 9 million bushels for the same period last year. Thus many western European markets have been left largely dependent upon the United States in the past two months for their wheat supplies.

The conditions noted above are now maintaining prices in many of the world markets at a level above what they were at the same time last year. At Liverpool, prices for December delivery stood at \$1.76 on October 22 compared with \$1.48 a year ago. The position of the United States with reference to these markets, however, has been changed somewhat by the large increase in the production of some classes of wheat. With the exception of durum, all classes of wheat in our markets are now below last year's price level. Winter wheat prices on October 22 were about 20 cents under and spring wheat 7 cents under, while the price of durum was 19 cents higher than it was last year. Last year the price of durum was relatively very low as compared with the price of other wheats, and the change in the situation is due to the fact that short crops in northern Africa and southern Italy, as well as some reduction in the durum crop in the United States has resulted in higher market prices for durum everywhere. Winter wheats, on the other hand, are now selling on an export basis whereas last year they were selling on a domestic market basis. Our supply of red spring wheat, however, is scarcely more than our usual requirements for that wheat, and the prices, therefore, are rising above an export basis. The price for No. 1 dark northern at Minneapolis on October 22 was 2 cents over the Winnipeg price for No. 1 northern. Last year at the same time Minneapolis prices were 30 cents over Winnipeg.

An interesting factor in the present situation is the increase in ocean freight rates. While this increase will naturally widen the spread between Liverpool and the markets of the United States, it may result somewhat to the advantage of the United States. High ocean freight rates and scarcity of shipment during the war, for example, placed Australia and Argentina at a disadvantage in the European markets. While rates have not yet risen so much as to have any appreciable effect, but in so far as they do affect the movement of grains from distant surplus ports to the European deficit areas, it will be favorable to the United States and Canada.

CONDITIONS IN COLORADO

Agricultural conditions in Colorado on October 15 are about 5 points lower than a month ago, and now nearly 12 points below the 10-year average, just slightly higher than a year ago at this time. The reduction is largely due to the continuance of the drought since the middle of July and to the killing frosts and light freezes of September 23-24 that stopped further development of practically all crops. During the past 38 years, only 12 times has the precipitation in September averaged less than this time. July and August also showed low averages. Very little beneficial rain except in limited localities. Irrigation water continued in fair to good supply.

Weather has been warm and harvesting of potatoes, sugar beets, truckcrops and apples is well under way. Cherries, peaches and pears have been harvested and mostly marketed. Wheat has moved rapidly to shipping points, while other small grains are largely still held on the farms.

Except under irrigation and on a small percentage of the non-irrigated lands, crops are classed as poor; threshers' returns and other information show very low average yields. Some small grain and thousands of acres of corn, beans, broomcorn, millet, and forage crops proved almost an entire failure.

To fully appreciate the agricultural situation in Colorado, it is essential to have an understanding of the crops grown with and without irrigation. Irrigated crops are quite uniformly good from year to year, while the non-irrigated crops more frequently meet with adverse conditions. Of the entire area devoted to crops the percentages under irrigation for the following are: Corn 9 per cent, winter wheat 7.5 per cent, spring wheat 53 per cent, oats 44 per cent, barley 24 per cent, dry beans 12 per cent, potatoes 82 per cent, sugar beets and truck crops nearly 100 per cent, alfalfa about 85 per cent and most all other tame hay, while rye, grain and sweet sorghums, millet, sudan grass, and broomcorn are almost wholly non-irrigated crops.

Usually Colorado eastern plains sections are not materially affected by hot winds, but they reached over this season, most disastrously. Corn is making the poorest showing since 1911, and beans are a close second. Potatoes, though mostly irrigated, are only fair. Even with irrigation the hot weather matured the vines too early and checked the set and usual growth of tubers. Sugar beets, especially in northern Colorado, are making the best showing in recent years, though they were injured somewhat by the September 23-24 freeze.

The fruit crops cleared with high production in all sections. Cherries, peaches and pears have been marketed at quite satisfactory values, while raspberries were low, and apples seem to have no outlet. Only about one-third as many cars of apples have been shipped to date as last year at this time, and prices to growers are very low.

The late end of the lettuce brought better returns than the earlier crop, but the yield was light, marketings amounting to only about 70 crates per acre for the entire area planted. Shipments to October 1 were about 2,700 cars, with about another 100 cars to go, compared to 3,059 cars in 1925. Cabbage produced well, with good quality, but much was left in the fields on account of low prices and poor demand. Onions made a fair crop but not up to early expectations account of depletion by thrips. Markets are quiet and prices low, crop mostly going into storage. A heavy crop of cantaloupes was produced, about 4,000 cars were rolled compared with 3,050 last year. The early sales made the growers some money. The late ones were too low. In general, the average of all returns stands about the same as the advances, 35 to 40 cents for flats and about 70 to 80 cents for standards. Not much profit for the growers.

Grass cured well and hay was mostly put up in good condition. Cattle and sheep are being moved from the higher ranges. But few summer losses have been reported. The movement to market is regarded as somewhat slower than usual. The early movement of lambs was mostly to eastern markets, but few lambs have thus far been placed in the feed lots of Colorado. Reports indicate that more cattle and fewer lambs will be fed this season than usual. In the north central and western portions of the State financial conditions have improved, especially in sections under irrigation, while in the non-irrigated sections they are generally more stringent and some stock is being sold to equalize the feed and financial situation. In some sections seed wheat for fall sowing is being furnished by outside agencies. Fall plantings of wheat and rye have been under adversely dry conditions and the present outlook is discouraging. Unless abundant moisture comes soon much replanting will be necessary.

W. W. Putman,
State Statistician, B. A. E.